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20 April 1955

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

State Dept. review completed

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SUMMARY

FAR EAST

1. Moscow proposes London or Geneva as site for negotiations with Japan (page 3).

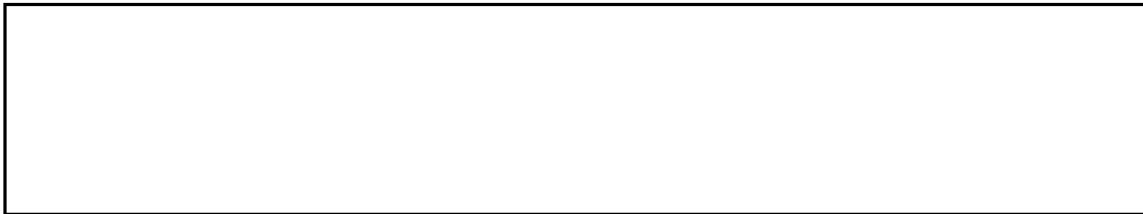


NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Shah proposes Washington for Middle East defense talks (page 5).

THE FORMOSA STRAITS (page 6)

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FAR EAST

1. Moscow proposes London or Geneva as site for negotiations with Japan:

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[REDACTED] The Soviet Union has proposed either Geneva or London as the site for talks on the resumption of relations with Japan. Former Japanese ambassador to London Matsumoto, who gave Ambassador Allison a copy of Moscow's latest note, said he would be the chief negotiator at the talks, which Foreign Minister Shigemitsu now hopes will be held in London.

Comment: This Soviet reply suggests that Moscow has given up any hope of utilizing the unrecognized Soviet mission in Tokyo as its agency for negotiations.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry has wanted the talks held away from Tokyo in order to minimize the influence of Prime Minister Hatoyama [REDACTED]

25X6 [REDACTED] Matsumoto, a career diplomat, is friendly to the West and is on good terms with both Foreign Ministry officials and Hatoyama's close advisers.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Shah proposes Washington for Middle East defense talks:

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[REDACTED] The Shah has suggested that the military staff talks with Turkey, Pakistan and Iraq which he tentatively proposed in mid-March be held in Washington in the near future, according to Iranian acting prime minister Entezam. The Shah's decision to go ahead with area military planning is based on favorable replies to the March proposal.

The declared purpose of the discussions is to make a joint estimate of the requirements for regional defense. Washington was suggested by the Shah because he considers it easier to assure secrecy there than elsewhere.

Comment: The three countries invited will probably accept the Shah's suggestion.

Turkey has expressed the belief that Iran should commit itself politically by joining the Turkish-Iraqi pact before starting joint military planning. The Shah, however, maintains that Iranian adherence to this pact is impossible at present. Under these circumstances, it is unlikely that any military plans involving Iran will emerge. [REDACTED]

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THE FORMOSA STRAITS

Report of the IAC Current Intelligence Group for the Formosa Straits Problem

This report is based on information received in Washington
up to 1100 hours 19 April 1955.

1. No significant activity has been reported.

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